

Lester Snow, CalFed Executive Director  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155  
Sacramento CA 95814

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JUN 19 1998

Dear Executive Director Snow:

I am writing to you today to please stop trying to build a dam. This dam is called Shasta Dam. You said that you wanted to build a peripheral canal. You also want to construct over twenty other dams, canals and water facilities. This is going to cost Californian taxpayers around 10 billion dollars! I do not think our tax dollars should be spent on something that is unneeded like this. This dam is a very dangerous threat to California's environment and economy. You presented the greatest opportunity in decades to:

- Ensure high-quality water and reliable supplies for people and wildlife.
- Restore our magnificent salmon runs, thriving wetlands, the largest inland estuary in the West.

But if developers and agribusiness have their way, you may instead threaten our free-flowing rivers and wildlife with massive new dams, reservoirs, and canals funded by taxpayer dollars. All three of your alternatives include new or enlarged dams and storage reservoirs and neglect the real potential for meeting California's water needs with conservation and efficiency. For example, CalFed predicts less than 1% of water used for agriculture (representing 80% of water use in the state) can be conserved, while innovative farmers now show savings up to 50%. CalFed's third alternative, which is their favorite, would build a scaled-back version of the Peripheral Canal (a proposal to build a canal around the delta which was defeated by wide margins in a state referendum in 1982.)

Building this dam would not be helping us with water. It would be preventing more water coming to California, especially Southern California, where I live. This project would kill a lot of fish and wildlife that are native to this area. Water is the most precious resource in California. Right now, a decision vital to our future needs your attention. I believe that you should have the fourth alternative called, "Smart Alternative." This alternative is based on conservation and restoration to provide ample,

high-quality water for California's families, wildlife, farms, and businesses into the 21st century. The "Smart Alternative" would:

- Ensure effective conservation programs and economic incentives to use our water more efficiently.
- Maximize water efficiency before even considering costly new dam, reservoirs, and canals.
- Restore and protect our watersheds and groundwater basins for high-quality, reliable water for people and wildlife.
- Restore California's fish, birds, wetlands, rivers, delta, and bays.

Please stop this dam from being built. I would like my children and their children to be able to have the same water and wildlife qualities that I have. I may only be 15, but I strongly believe that this dam should not be built.

Please enter these comments into the formal record of your Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report and Statement. Thank you.

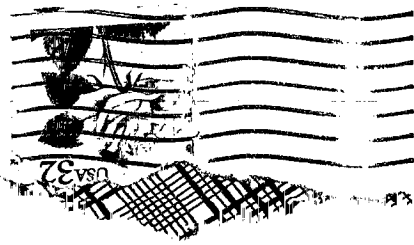
Sincerely,



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DEPARTMENT OF  
WATER RESOURCES  
SACRAMENTO  
JUN 19 AM 11:11

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